



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/846,424

05/01/2001

Joseph Lee Shriver

38190/233578

4590

826

7590

09/06/2007

ALSTON & BIRD LLP

BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA

101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000

CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER

FISHER, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/06/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/846,424

**Applicant(s)**

SHRIVER ET AL.

**Examiner**

Michael J. Fisher

**Art Unit**

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PAT 6,889,197 to Lidow.

As to claims 1,16, Lidow discloses a supply chain visibility system connected to a network (fig 24) that coordinates a supply chain of actual parts needed to complete a set of parts (268, fig 17), supplied by a plurality of suppliers (suppliers, 76, as best seen in fig 22), with a plurality of user interfaces (inherent in that Lidow discloses using the Internet, col 26, lines 62-67) that connects suppliers, recipients via a network (fig 24), a configuration panel that displays a final configuration agreed to by the suppliers and

Art Unit: 3629

recipients (fig 21), a template panel operable to display a common set of parts (278, products, as best seen in fig 17), a statement of work panel operable to display the final set of parts (invoice 532, as best seen in fig 21), a shipment entry panel that receives shipping status data (262, as best seen in fig 17), a processing element comparing the shipping status data of the actual parts (fig 17, 264, "validate quantity against supply plan" to 270 "valid?").

Lidow does not, however, specifically mention that the interface is graphical. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system as taught by Lidow by using a graphical user interface (GUI) as GUIs are very well known in the art to ease use of the Internet.

As to claims 2,17, Lidow discloses an electronic mail option (messaging section 588).

As to claims 3,18, Lidow discloses displaying the actual shipping status, the invoice would inherently include the part numbers and a listing of actual parts (fig 19).

As to claims 4,5,6,19,20,21, Lidow discloses "supplier performance statistics", while not specifically discussed, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to track discrepancy information and returned part repair information in that section as they would directly relate to supplier performance.

As to claims 7,22, the parts needed to be replaced are those ordered, as discussed above, they are displayed.

As to claims 8,23 the replacement part information and replacement part are those ordered.

As to claims 9,24, Lidow discloses a shipment in transit panel (as can be seen in fig 16 above sections labeled "74 supply chain server", "76, suppliers 1 supplier 2" and "96 carrier").

As to claims 10, Lidow discloses a link to contact information to the suppliers (col 23, lines 11-17).

As to claims 11,25, Lidow discloses disclosing the shipping date and keeping it up to date (fig 17).

As to claims 11,12,26, as Lidow discusses tracking the status of deliveries, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to track delivery times and dates to ensure that the parts are delivered on time to increase customer satisfaction.

As to claims 13,27, the configuration would inherently be agreed to by the supplier as the supplier would use it.

As to claims 14,28 it is very well known in the art to allow for a change of configuration in panels, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow a user to configure a panel as they see fit to allow the user to customize the panels in a manner that they prefer to increase customer satisfaction.

As to claims 15,29, as discussed, Lidow discloses electronic mail that would be operable to transmit any messages desired.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 6/14/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As to arguments in relation to the template, the examiner will point out that the term "template" is extremely broad and could be met by many different forms. For

instance, a web page that only displays those items is a template. Further, as discussed in the rejection, the prior art does teach displaying the items, they would be displayed on a template. The examiner will further note that the claim language of claims 1-15 does not claim a template or any other features, merely a display that can display one, which limitation could be met by any computer display as they are inherently capable of displaying "templates". The examiner will note that the rejection treated the claims as a method claim in the interests of compact prosecution, however, the limitations argued are only pertinent in claims 16-29, the method claims.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Fisher whose telephone number is 571-272-6804. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5:00pm alt Fri. off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael J. Fisher



Patent Examiner  
GAU 3629

MF 

9/3/07